

The background of the cover features a dark maroon section on the left and a white section on the right. Overlaid on the maroon section are several wavy, upward-trending lines in a lighter shade of maroon. Scattered across these lines are several five-pointed stars, some in white and some in a light blue color. The stars and lines suggest a theme of growth, progress, and achievement.

EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 2000

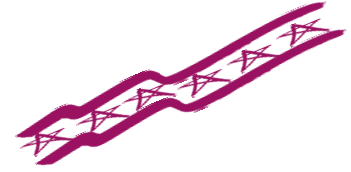
**Innovative
Practices In
Economic
Development**

**United States Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration**





Excellence
In Economic
Development
2000



"It is important for us to recognize communities that are leading the way in establishing best practices in economic development. By working to attract new businesses and industries, these communities are ensuring long-term sustainable development and job growth for their citizens."

William M. Daley
Secretary of Commerce
January 25, 1999



Celebrating 35 Years of Assisting America's
Distressed Communities



Excellence in Economic Development 2000

Dear Colleagues,

This year, the Economic Development Administration celebrates 35 years of working in partnership with local communities to stimulate economic growth and development in America's distressed areas. As part of this celebration, EDA is establishing the Award for Excellence in Economic Development to recognize outstanding economic development activities of national importance. This year, nominations will be taken in three categories:

- Excellence in Urban or Suburban Economic Development
- Excellence in Rural Economic Development
- Excellence in Economic Development in Native Communities

The competition is open to all types of nonprofit organizations, nonfederal government bodies, and universities and colleges. Award selections are made by a highly qualified and independent panel of economic development practitioners, academics, and government representatives. The peer review process uses strict criteria outlined elsewhere in this announcement.

We ask for your help and participation in identifying those programs, projects, and organizations deserving of special recognition—including your own! Winners will be announced at EDA's annual Economic Development Forum, scheduled for May 30-June 1, 2000, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Chester J. Straub, Jr.
Acting Assistant Secretary for Economic Development





Overview

The Award for Excellence in Economic Development recognizes innovative and well-implemented economic development activities of national significance. The Award is designed to showcase successful activities and inspire innovation. Nominations are made in specific categories announced each year. Nominees are then evaluated by a Selection Panel appointed by the Assistant Secretary for Economic Development. Award recipients will receive a commemorative plaque and be invited to share their successful strategies and processes with the public at EDA's annual Economic Development Forum.

This announcement describes the rules governing the 2000 Award for Excellence in Economic Development competition, including eligibility, selection criteria, nomination and selection processes, makeup of the Selection Panel, and other information you will need to submit a nomination. A nomination form is included in the package.

Eligibility

Eligible nominees include:

- ◆ local, state, and regional governments;
- ◆ local, state, and regional nonprofit organizations; and
- ◆ Native American governments and nonprofit organizations.

For profit firms and institutions are not eligible.

Nominated activities may include:

- ◆ specific projects of national importance; or
- ◆ the cumulative activities of the nominee.



Nomination Procedure

Nominations for the award may be submitted by any organization or individual (excepting members of the Selection Panel). The nomination must be endorsed by a bona fide representative of the nominated organization. Unless informed otherwise, EDA will treat this individual as the official representative of the organization for purposes of requesting additional information and making any award.

Nominations must be submitted in accordance with the instructions provided in this packet. Additional copies of these nomination materials and rules of the competition may be obtained directly from the Economic Development Administration, either on the agency's Web site (www.doc.gov/eda) or by contacting: Office of Communications and Congressional Liaison, Room 7814A, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20230. Telephone: (202) 482-2309. Completed nominations shall be submitted to the same address.

Nominations received after March 17, 2000 will not be accepted.
Nominations may not be submitted by fax or email.

Each nomination may be accompanied by no more than three letters of support. These letters should be included with the nomination. There is no application fee. An organization may not be nominated for more than one category.



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he Selection Process

EDA staff review each nomination received for completeness and adherence to the rules of the competition. Each complete nomination is then forwarded to the Selection Panel, where it is reviewed by at least three members. Each reviewer ranks the nominee on a numeric scale for each of the selection criteria.

The top three nominees in each award category advance as finalists. Finalists may be given the opportunity to submit additional information in support of their nomination, when they have been selected as finalists. The Selection Panel again ranks the finalists, for consideration by the Assistant Secretary for Economic Development, using the announced criteria. The Assistant Secretary then selects the winners. If no finalists in an award category achieve the level of excellence contemplated in this award, the Assistant Secretary may decide not to make an award in that category. Winners will be notified by May 1, 2000.

EDA may amend the selection process from one year to the next, but shall not alter the rules for a given year after the initial announcement is made. EDA staff and the Selection Panel reserve the right to contact nominees in order to verify information submitted or to obtain additional information necessary to evaluate the nomination. Nominees are under no obligation to provide this information, but should recognize that failure to provide the information may lower their chances of being selected as a winner.

Key Dates

Deadline for Nominations	March 17, 2000
Selection of Finalists	April 3, 2000
Notification of Winners	May 1, 2000

Announcement of Winners:
at the EDA Economic Development Forum,
to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico,
May 30–June 1, 2000



Selection Panel

In any given year, the Selection Panel is composed of between 7 and 9 individuals, selected by the Assistant Secretary for Economic Development, and includes

- ◆ 3 representatives of the nonfederal economic development practitioner community;
- ◆ 1 member from academe;
- ◆ 3 representatives of the Economic Development Administration, and
- ◆ up to 2 at-large members.

Selection Panel members may not be employees, officers, or contractors of any nominated organization. In the event such a conflict of interest is discovered, either the Selection Panel member must be removed from the selection process or the nominated organization shall withdraw its entry. The Assistant Secretary may replace any Selection Panel member who resigns.

The term of Selection Panel members shall be three years. Except as described in this paragraph, a member shall serve no more than one three-year term consecutively. Initially, three members shall serve one-year terms and three members shall serve two-year terms. Members who serve initial one- or two-year terms may be reappointed for full three-year terms.



ward Categories for 2000

- ◆ Excellence in Urban or Suburban Economic Development
- ◆ Excellence in Rural Economic Development
- ◆ Excellence in Economic Development in Native Communities

Selection Criteria

Nominees are evaluated and finalists selected based on the following weighted criteria. The Assistant Secretary for Economic Development selects the winners in each category from the three finalists in that category.

1. Contribution of the nominee to national economic development in distressed areas:

The organization's activities should promote job formation, enhanced productivity, technological advancement, equity, and other generally recognized economic development objectives. (30%)

2. Ability to demonstrate benefits.

The organization should be able to describe; demonstrate the existence of; and where possible, quantify the benefits of its activities. (20%)

3. Replicability.

The organization should be able to demonstrate that its activities are replicable by other organizations, as well as to describe the conditions most conducive to such replication. (20%)

4. Longevity of the benefits.

The organization should be able to demonstrate that the benefits of the program or project are not temporary. (10%)

5. Innovative nature of the program or project.

The organization should show that its strategies and activities either: (a) represent a new approach to economic development or (b) use or implement existing approaches in innovative ways. (20%)



Award for Excellence in Economic Development 2000

Organization name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Web Address: _____ Email: _____

Check one category

- ☐ Excellence in Urban or Suburban Economic Development
- ☐ Excellence in Rural Economic Development
- ☐ Excellence in Economic Development in Native Communities

Nomination for (check one)

- ☐ The organization's overall efforts, or
- ☐ A specific program/project of the organization (give title):

For Agency Use Only: Logged by: _____

Date received:

☐ timely receipt of application

☐ statement included

_____ letters of support included

Date sent to Panel: _____

Nominee Certification

Nominee Representative: _____

I certify that I have the authority to represent the nominee organization in public matters. I also certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the substantive statements in this application are true. I understand that if this application is found to contain substantive and willful misrepresentations, the nominee will be disqualified from the award competition.

Signature: _____

Title: _____ Email: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Confidentiality

The selection scores and content of deliberations used to select finalists and winners will not be disclosed except to the extent provided by law.

Endorsements

The Award for Excellence in Economic Development is honorary only, and does not constitute an endorsement of any revenue producing goods, publications, or services the winner may offer.

Award for Excellence in Economic Development 2000

Organization name: _____

Statement

Please include a statement of no more than 5 pages describing the contributions of the nominee's program(s).
The statement should address each of the evaluation criteria described on page 4.

Attach additional pages as needed, subject to the page limit described above.





MISSION STATEMENT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) was established under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121), as amended, to generate new jobs, help retain existing jobs, and stimulate industrial and commercial growth in economically-distressed areas of the United States. EDA assistance is available to rural and urban areas of the Nation experiencing high unemployment, low income, or sudden and severe economic distress.

In fulfilling its mission, EDA is guided by the basic principle that distressed communities must be empowered to develop and implement their own economic development and revitalization strategies. Based on these locally - and regionally - developed priorities, EDA works in partnership with state and local governments, regional economic development districts, public and private nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes. EDA helps distressed communities address problems associated with long-term economic distress, as well as sudden and severe economic dislocation including recovering from the economic impact of natural disasters, and the closure of military installations and other Federal facilities.





**Office of Communications and Congressional Liaison
Economic Development Administration, Room 7814A
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington D.C. 20230**

**Excellence
In Economic
Development
2000**

Application Materials Enclosed

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES
PAID
EDA/DOC
PERMIT No. G37

Nomination Deadline: March 17, 2000

